**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph [0102] with the following amended paragraph:

[0102] A ~~modem~~ modern SRAM programmed FPGA will be implemented on a CMOS process with 5 or more metal layers and transistors with a gate length of 0.18 microns. The die may be up to 2 cm on a side and contain tens of millions of transistors. In order to encode a particular cryptographic key onto the chip one or more of the optical masks used in manufacturing the chip must be altered. A very secure cipher such as triple DES requires a 168 bit key, so the task is to hide less than 200 bits of secure information in the massively complex manufacturing data for the FPGA. The technique of hiding a small amount of secret data in a much larger database is called steganography and has been studied by the cryptographic community for many years although most prior-art uses of steganography (see for example "Disappearing Cryptography," by Peter Wayner, published by Academic Press, ISBN 0-12-738671) have concerned techniques for hiding secret messages in long text files or images.